THE SUBURBAN CITIZEN.

WASHINGTON, - D. C.

The productive qualities of the soil of tropical Africa seem to be without limit. Every experiment in agriculture, so far, has proven successful. It now transpires that the climate and soil are peculiarly adapted to the production of coffee, and already the exportation of that grain has been inaugurated from Uganda.

An interesting statistical table of murders in the various States during the past ten years has been compiled by the Chicago Times-Herald. It shows Texas far in the lead, with 1021 homicides, and Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky in a second group, with a total for each approaching 400. Of the other States, New York and California lead with 512 and 422 respectively. It is a grewsome competition. Not a State in New England tops the hundred; New Hampshire and Vermont have only fifteen between them.

At the annual convention of the Women's National Indian Association, in Philadelphia, Mrs. Ruth Shaffner Etnier, formerly an instructor in the Carlisle Indian School, spoke of the training of Indian girls. She said that of more than 1500 whom she had interviewed all but twelve preferred housework to any other employment. They are fond of children and make good nursemaids. Much-vexed housekeepers might do worse than to experiment with this new material. In Mrs. Etnier's opinion "they may be developed into trustworthy helpers." Unfortunately they like the country best and like to be on farms where they can take care of animals.

The "co-eds" at the University of Chicago have revolted against their menu. They require the absolute exclusion of toast, eggs, beefsteak and hash. If it were only hash one could sympathize, but toast, eggs and beefsteak! Do they want pickle salad, chocolate eclair and angel cake for breakfast. This is what comes of shutting up femininity from the influences of the wholesome sex. Left to itself the feminine dietary would evolve a weird and wondrous thing. But when these gentle creatures of the Lake Seminary sidle out to make glad a pork-weary world other ideas will come to them. They may come in time to find a true fragment of the over-soul imprisoned in a thick slab of broiled steak, red inside and smothered in onions.

One of the things that appear to have been settled by the Boer war is the disappearance from the British army of the organization known as the army corps. It is stated authoritatively that the division is the largest tactical unit that can be conveniently employed in the field. The army corps sent to South Africa went to pieces immediately after it landed, and all subsequent reinforcements went out as divisions, and General Roberts worked with the divisional unit throughout. However much the corps organization may be adapted to European warfare, it has no place in such wars as Great Britain usually wages. With the disappearance of the army corps, corps troops will go, and the divisions will have their own small proportion of cavalry and artillery. The cavalry and artillery will then have their own groupings according to circumstances.

After six months' investigation of the saloon problem in Chicago, Professor Royal Loren Melendy makes a plea for increased opportunity for recreation as an ethical substitute for the saloon. Other remedies suggested by him are model tenement houses, increased facilities for obtaining cheap and wholesome food, and such necessities as public toilet conveniences, labor bureaus, and public parks. Much of the popularity of the saloon he ascribes to the social feature and the free-lunch system. The social feature, he argues, can be duplicated in club-rooms under proper direction, and where the visitors must not be affected with the feeling that the men conducting the club are better than they are. For the free-lunch attraction he would substitute better facilities for the cheap service of food similar to those employed by the London coffee-houses. This service of free lunch in the saloons demonstrates the possibility of serving a satisfactory meal at a price not much, if any, in excess of that paid by the frequenter of the free-lunch counter for the beer he consumes.

MODERN PHILANTHROPY

A CENTURY'S IMPROVEMENTS IN CHARITABLE METHODS.

How the Spirit of Philanthropy Has Developed—Caring For the Unfortunates—Wider and Nobler Views—The Modern Way of Treating Derelict Children

The following article was written for the Washington Evening Star by Professor Charles R. Henderson, professor of sociology in the University of Chicago: New demands were laid upon modern communities by the vast increase of population, the congestion of cities, the vicissitudes of speculative commerce, the swift changes in industry, the rapid separation of operatives from control of instruments of production. Charity itself often created a demand for itself, and sanitary science spared the weak from elimination by disease and hardship.

Modern philanthropy has, however, marched forward with discovery and invention, with science and art. It has taken the form of legal relief, inspired by the community conscience, while the voluntary associations and churches have led the way and tried the experiments, not without lavish expenditures of generous individuals.

GENIUS OF THE MOVEMENT.

The directories of our great city charities are bulky volumes, and our selection of illustrations must be severely limited to a few typical examples which indicate the direction and genius of the movement. Of the inner spirit and motive it is more difficult to judge than of the magnitude of gifts and the improvement in methods. Yet it is through study of external manifestations that we are enabled to interpret the actions and dispositions of the soul.

The education of the blind and of deaf mutes is a function of our school system, not of our charities. And yet many of these pupils are from dependent families and would be helpless without public assistance. Their infirmity makes eloquent appeal to social sympathy, and response has come in costly institutions, improvements in methods of teaching, provision of suitable books and organization of self-help among adults.

CARE OF THE INSANE.

From motives of safety as well as of humanity attention was early called to the insane. The progress of social care of this class has been marked by greater kindness and skill, by the substitution of the detached college system for the older, more expensive and less suitable congregate style; the provision of detention hospitals instead of restraint with criminals in station houses and jails; the tendency to remove chronic cases from pauper houses to asylums. A saint canonized by all friends of those bereft of reason was Dorthea Linde Dix, a Massachusetts school teacher, who was taught sympathy by early orphanage and the dictates of a noble spirit, who learned the needs of the insane by visiting institutions and by travel in Europe. From 1837 she addressed committees and legislatures in all the States and contributed greatly to the effort to transfer the insane from local jails and almshouses to hospitals erected by the commonwealth and conducted by experts. The apparent increase in insanity shown by statistics is partly due to the greater readiness of friends of the insane to place them in hospitals for nervous diseases in the early stage when cure is most hopeful, and also to the longer life of patients under modern conditions.

COLONIES OF EPILEPTICS.

One of the finest examples of specialization applied to humane organizations is the recent establishment of colonies of epileptics. An enlightened public demands for this unfortunate class the quiet and seclusion, the open air life, the industrial opportunity of farm, garden and shop, which are required by the nature of this malady. Admirable models may be cited in Ohio and New York, where excellent provisions are made in several States, and a general movement to secure legislation throughout the Union deserves universal and hearty co-operation.

FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

Of the feeble-minded idiots and imbeciles, it is said there are about as many as of the insane. They are generally incapable of self-support in competitive life. Recently this fact has been practically recognized, and schools have become permanent asylums for the segregation of those who are unfit to meet the demands of struggle in industrial society. This segregation is especially necessary in the case of girls and women. All of this class would be happier in colonies where their labor would produce the cost of subsistence in a simple and comfortable way of life. This is the best example of the growing determination of society to eliminate the unfit and consciously give preference to the capable. A humane method has been found for exterminating gradually the vicious stock, and this method will doubtless be extended to habitual drunkards and criminals and to epileptics.

In prison science and art philanthropy displays that highest proof of goodness, charity to social enemies. But it is a rational and austere charity. For revenge and retribution have been substituted social protection and individual reformation. Deprivation of liberty and severe industrial training have been found to be more deterrent, more humane and more efficient than torture and capital punishment for theft. Elmira Reformatory, opened in 1876, embodied the principles of modern reformatory methods.

PRISON IMPROVEMENT.

The National Prison Association, organized by Dr. F. C. Wines in 1870, has had a wide and profound influence in educating prison officers and the general public, while the international penitentiary congress, which also owes much to the energetic initiative of Dr. Wines, has rendered the highest form of service. The character of officials is rising. The merit system is supplanting the shameful and costly spoils system. In the fields of anthropology, psychology, jurisprdence and international law the best minds have made contributions to penology from their own particular studies.

CARE OF CHILDREN.

Michigan led the way in establishing a most enlightened and complete system of child care, the admiration of philanthropists in all the world. This system includes supervision and control of all public and private institutions for dependent and neglected children, that all may be protected by law. No child is to be placed in an institution except on judicial approval and finding that it is delinquent or dependent. All institutions are required to place dependent children in approved family homes within a reasonable time. During minority indentured children and youth are supervised and protected. No subsidies are given from public funds to private institutions, but they are encouraged and simply required to give evidence of efficiency. Ill-treated children are protected by stringent provisions of law, and parental custody comes to an end when authority is abused. Dependent and delinquent children are carefully separated.

Private societies for aiding neglected children have made great advance in methods and results. Huge barracks are no longer approved as permanent homes of children, and the natural environment of fostering parental affection is sought for the homeless. Kindergartens and day nurseries are agencies of philanthropy for touching the very beginning of educational life.

A WIDER AND NOBLER VIEW.

Philanthropy has taken a wider and nobler view of its mission. It has become preventive and educational. Miss Carpenter said: "A hospital cannot cleanse a poison-infected district, nor diminish the constant supply of patients from an undrained and malarious locality." It is well to remove the weak and tempted from a bad environment, better still to improve the environment. It is well to go down to the folk-swamp and rescue one here and there; better still to drain the cesspool, improve the tenements, prevent adulteration of food and drink, inspect factories and compel use of devices for averting accident and disease. The wall at the top of the dangerous precipice is worth far more than an ambulance at the bottom.

The grand Utah decision of Justice Brown has at last given highest sanction to the principle that the health of working men is an interest of the State, and cannot be disregarded by the greed of employers nor even by the stupidity and negligence of the employes.

Clergymen Collect Their Own Dues.

An extraordinary survival from the primitive tradition of the clergy openly collecting their own "dues" in kind from the people may now be seen in full swing in the rural districts of Upper Savoy, in Switzerland. Every year about the middle of October clergymen, attended by youths bearing sacks and baskets, go from village to village, receiving the contributions of their parishioners. No sort of consumable commodity comes amiss, though money is most favored, and every evening the sack or basket goes back heavily loaded. These contributions are a popular test of respectability, and many a housewife has been known to borrow the whole amount of her offering to the parochial incumbent.—London Express.

The Salt-Eating Mania.

A new habit has asserted itself which suggests a curious train of thought as to the direction in which human aberrations in the matter of personal habits may eventually tend. It is said that the new habit, that of salt eating, is not only greatly on the increase, particularly among women of all classes, but that it is in many cases a most serious disease. It begins with a desire for large quantities of salt with the food, and, if not checked, reaches a stage in which the patient carries salt crystals about with her wherever she goes, and is continually nibbling at them. The symptoms are a peculiar yellowness and shrinking of the skin, which is followed by the loss of all the hair, even that of the eyelids.—London Health.

Ouida and the Duchess.

Lord Rathmore has told a friend how he once took "Ouida" in to dinner, and how disappointed he was to find that the novelist devoted herself to the dishes rather than to intellectual refreshment. He said at last, in despair at having only been able to get "Yes" and "No" in answer to the different subjects he introduced: "I'm afraid I'm singularly unfortunate in my choice of topics. Is there anything we could talk about to interest you?" To which the chronicler of society's shortcomings replied: "There is one thing which would interest me very much. Tell me about the duchesses; I have written about them all my life, and never met one yet."—Argonaut.

Emigration in Hungary has assumed unusual dimensions lately. During one month 15,591 passes were issued to emigrants.

PANAMA AND NICARAGUA.

Lengths and Summit Levels of the Two Canal Routes.

The Isthmus of Panama runs almost east and west at the point where it is proposed to pierce it with a canal, and is thirty-five miles wide at the narrowest place. The canal would run nearly north and south, therefore. Still, the Pacific end would nearly be twenty miles further east than the Atlantic terminus. The plan outlined by the United State Commission calls for work along a route nearly forty-five miles in length. Over two miles and a half would be excavated in or near Colon Harbor, at the Atlantic end, and over three and a half miles at Panama, on the Pacific. Hence the distance from end to end of the canal proper would be only about thirty-nine miles, and twelve and a half miles of this would extend across Lake Bohio. The heavy work, therefore, would be confined to about twenty-seven miles. But some of this would be exceedingly costly.

The old French company which proposed to construct this canal dreamed of carving right down to tide level, all the way across. But the new corporation, which performed the greater part of the work actually done, decided to use locks. These would have brought the level up about ninety feet. A modified plan made the summit only sixty-seven feet above sea level, but if this were followed the expense would be materially increased. The United States Commission estimates the cost of completing the canal on the ninety-foot basis at upward of $142,000,000, and on the sixty-seven-foot basis at over $156,000,000.

The Nicaragua route utilizes a lake in the interior, and this is about 101 feet above sea level. Hence locks would be necessary on this line also. Engineers have proposed raising the level of the lake by means of dams to either 108 feet or 110 feet. The cut from Brito, on the Pacific Coast, to the shores of Lake Nicaragua would be over sixteen miles long. The lake would contribute fifty-six and a half miles to the route, and the San Juan River, the outlet of Lake Nicaragua, is 108 miles or 110 miles long. This stream, with some excavation, would serve as a canal a good part of the way. Hence, although the distance from ocean to ocean is much greater here than at Panama, the character of the work to be done makes it less expensive. The preliminary estimates put the cost of the Nicaragua Canal at $125,000,000.

An important consideration in choosing between the two routes is the distance saved to shipping bound from Atlantic or Gulf ports to the Pacific. A steamer bound from New York would save 377 miles, from Liverpool 386 miles and from New Orleans 579 miles in going to San Francisco. To Yokahama by way of Honolulu the saving would be from New York 225 miles, from Liverpool 264 miles and from New Orleans 457 miles. The owners of steamships would gain in two ways by this improvement. They would save on coal bills, and they would be able to start their vessels on the return trip sooner, thus increasing their earning capacity. The risks of navigation, too, would be correspondingly diminished by the abbreviation of the voyage.—New York Tribune.

Any Port in a Storm.

Being a large relationship, its assemblage at a social gathering of the clans filled the big house. There were none of the restraints imposed by lack of acquaintance. There was one continual round of merriment, and among other amusements was the good old game of charades.

Though the opposing forces were all related, it just happened that one side had no trouble at all in guessing correctly in short order, while the other side required a much longer time even when it did not score a failure. This chagrined the losers, especially as they were laughed at as easy, a little slow on the mental trigger, and all that sort of thing.

Finally, when the "slow" ones got a chance to go out, a sprightly young matron announced a scheme. It was enthusiastically and unanimously adopted. The next charade was acted by tearing up the front stairs, through the second story, down the back stairs and then attacking the edibles yet in sight. There were dozens of ingenious guesses, and all were pronounced wrong. Three other performances were given, and not one of them could the side that had been so successful solve. And all the time it was kept under a hotter fire of jibes and sarcasms than it had given. Finally the conspirators voted that the other side couldn't guess anything, however simple, and the game was changed.

The secret of all this was that the plotters had not chosen a word, sentence or sentiment. They just went through whatever came into their heads and none of the other side thought of guessing "Nothing."—Detroit Free Press.

Identifying the Class.

"I don't recall seeing you at college. I guess you must be before my time."

"Possibly, possibly. Who was at the head of the faculty when you were there?"

"Um—let me see—I don't just recall his name, but I was there the year Jinks played half back on the football team and kicked a goal twice from the field in the last half of——"

"Oh, sure, of course. That was the year our centre rush carried most of the opposing team on his back for a gain of thirty yards. Yes, indeed. I wonder who was president then. I don't seem to be able to remember minor details of college life myself."—Chicago Evening Post.

Babies Convicted of Sedition.

In Austria they arrest babes for high crimes and misdemeanors. The court in Parenzo, a town in Austria's Italian province of Istria, recently afforded the spectacle of two baby brothers, three and five years old, Pao and Leo Franco, being charged with sedition, in that they did cry "Viva Istria, Italiana." A day or two before, a fesival was celebrated, in the course of which this cry was raised. The two infants heard it, and the next day, while playing near the police barracks, they babbled the cry. Thereupon they were arrested, imprisoned, tried formally, adjudged guilty, and sentenced to be severely reprimanded. And so the high crime and misdemeanor was dealt with properly.

....A WOMAN'S TORTURING BICYCLE RIDE....

The most remarkable ride ever undertaken by a woman on a wheel was finished by Miss Marguerite Gast Monday evening when she completed a 2,000-mile journey in the record time of 222 hours 5½ minutes. Miss Gast's ride was over a course in Long island and no man or woman ever equaled the feat, but it was at an awful cost to the rider herself. She went through a series of hardships that would have caused the collapse of many a hardened athlete. When she finished she was a mere wreck of her former self. The glory of the ride was offset by the terrible physical suffering she underwent.